

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

Legislative Office Building, Room 5200
Hartford, CT 06106 ◇ (860) 240-0200
<http://www.cga.ct.gov/ofa>

sHB-5539

AN ACT CONCERNING FIREARMS IN STATE PARKS.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 19 \$	FY 20 \$
Department of Energy and Environmental Protection	GF - Potential Cost	See Below	See Below
Department of Energy and Environmental Protection	GF - Revenue Gain	Potential Minimal	Potential Minimal

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill requires the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) to allow anyone holding a valid pistol or revolver permit to carry such firearm in a state park. Currently, carrying firearms in state parks is prohibited, unless specifically authorized.

To the extent checking firearm permits creates a significant workload increase for DEEP Environmental Conservation (EnCon) officers, the bill may result in: (1) a shift of EnCon officers' duties away from their regular tasks, or (2) minimal costs associated with an increase in EnCon officer overtime.¹ In FY 16, EnCon officers issued 158 infractions or summons of all park and forest violations, representing 11% of the total EnCon enforcement activity.

The bill may also result in a minimal revenue gain to the extent EnCon officers issue additional infractions for carrying a pistol or

¹ In FY 18, it is estimated that the EnCon Division will spend \$383,000 on overtime.

revolvers in state parks without a permit. This would result in a minimal revenue gain to DEEP, depending on the number of violations that occur.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the number of complaints and violations that occur.